



SIERRA
CLUB

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GENERAL MEETING

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

**The lessons of Madagascar -
Sept. 21, Ludwick Center, SLO.**



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SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast

The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

Victory at Diablo

Court Decision on Terrorism Risks Felt Nationwide

On June 2, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) cannot choose to ignore the possibility of a terrorist attack on the dry cask storage project that PG&E is planning at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear power plant.

The ruling was a victory for the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, the Sierra Club, and former Supervisor Peg Pinard, who had challenged the NRC's 2003 decision refusing to hold a hearing on the question of whether a terrorist attack on the new facility is "reasonably foreseeable" and therefore requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As attorney Diane Curran told the Court in oral arguments last October, "the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have removed any shred of credibility from the NRC's stance that terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities are 'speculative' events that cannot be predicted."

Logic prevailed. "Many thanks to all in our Chapter and our community who helped to make this happen, and to all of our colleagues at Mothers For Peace," said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Karen Merriam.

Hundreds of Central Coast residents supported the appeal of the Mothers for Peace, Sierra Club and Supervisor Pinard and raised \$100,000 to prove that the NRC can no more be trusted to protect our vulnerable coast than FEMA can be trusted to safely evacuate us in the event there is a radioactive release at Diablo Canyon's aging reactors.

"We applaud the court's decision today that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must consider the potential impacts from a terrorist attack on nuclear facilities when conducting environmental reviews," said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "It is common sense that we take every precaution to protect



We win: The Mothers for Peace and Sierra Club celebrated at New Frontiers in SLO on June 10.

The Commission had refused to examine the environmental and health risks associated with a potential act of terrorism despite requests from the public, California Attorney General Lockyer, and Senator Dianne Feinstein. The Court ruled that the NRC has to analyze potential impacts from a terrorist attack on a nuclear facility.

PG&E's response to the ruling indicated that it intends to proceed with construction of the dry cask project as planned, despite the

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Americans from terrorism and sabotage. The courts are proving what Americans already know: protecting nuclear plants from potential terrorism attacks also protects our communities, our health and our environment."

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer called the ruling "a victory for communities that live in the shadow of Diablo Canyon, and for the health of California's residents and the environment."

The Sierra Club and Mothers for Peace filed the federal lawsuit in December 2003 challenging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's issuance of an amended license allowing the construction and operation of a long-term "dry cask" nuclear waste storage facility at Diablo Canyon. The storage facility presents a target for cataclysmic acts of terrorism and sabotage.

Atascadero Gets Cool

Local students persuade mayor to sign climate agreement

Atascadero Mayor Tom O'Malley has signed onto the list of mayors supporting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

For the past year, the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" campaign has been adding to the nationwide list of mayors (200+) who have signed on to the agreement, pledging to take the lead

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photos/Karin Walsh

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Existing technology could save you a lot of money with practically no effort. Money for fixing something — that's the way you do it.

It's at: www.sierraclub.org/mpg/

We Have the Power

At the Chapter's May 16 General Meeting, Chapter Chair Karen Merriam (left) led Gabriel Alarcon of Cienaga Energy Systems, SLO Chamber of Commerce CEO Dave Garth, Sierra Club California Energy-Climate Committee co-chair Ken Smokoska, Melissa Guise of the county Air Pollution Control



District, and Mikel Robertson from SLO Green Build in a panel discussion and preview of "Smart Energy Solutions," a regional community summit coming to the SLO Vets Hall October 10. Mark your calendars!

Nose Meets Arm

Property rights and wrongs

By Andrew Christie

When renowned sustainable foods activist Michael Ableman came to the Masonic Temple in SLO on May 30, at one point he spoke movingly of the overwhelming feeling of devastation and despair that overcame him when he found himself driving through a vast clear cut in British Columbia with his horrified four-year-old son, on their way to a wilderness retreat.

During the Q&A after his talk, a gentleman in the audience arose to ask how it was that Mr. Ableman felt it was okay for farmers to harvest fruits and vegetables but he apparently did not feel like according the same privilege to timber companies harvesting trees.

In response, Ableman gave a polite illustration of the principles of sustainable agriculture and sustainable forestry, pointing out the non-comparable regeneration timelines and the fact that farmers don't clear cut their crops and leave nothing standing. Though he did not include what I would have felt to be the most obvious point – he was driving through a former forest, not a tree farm; no timber company planted those trees – the difference was clear enough.

But after listening to Ableman's two-minute response, the gentleman simply repeated his question. It became obvious that he was not greatly concerned with the sustainability of either trees or crops. His concern was that everyone should be allowed to do whatever they want with their land.

This is the essence of the "property rights" movement now in ferment across the nation and making its presence known in this county in several high-profile issues. Consider the response of Board of Supervisors candidate Roger Anderson when the *Tribune* reported the vast sums of developer and realtor money that had flooded into his campaign just

before the June 6 primary. This, said Anderson, was merely due to the fact that he supported the group Protect Our Property Rights, and POPR merely supports property rights – specifically their privately drafted version of a county ordinance for the Cayucos-Adelaide viewshed that is significantly weaker than one drafted by County staff and the Cayucos Advisory Council.

At public hearings, the POPRs have stepped up to the microphone to say variations of the same thing: That the government should not "take" their land by imposing a land use ordinance on it. By "land" they mean "potential profits." Their land would be worth several million dollars more if it could be sold unencumbered by a viewshed ordinance that actually protects public views and thereby restricts private development.

Supervisor Achadjian's successful June bid for reelection was also greatly favored by POPR's financial largesse after Katcho's vote to approve their private ordinance.

Ernie Dalidio, as the *Tribune* reported, said he found that vote "interesting" because "his project, too, is about private property."

For his own desired exercise in property rights, Mr. Dalidio is requesting the exemption of his proposed project from the public environmental review that all other such projects require, a rewrite of the General Plan to create his own land use category, and a public gift of rezoning. (More wealth is created by rezoning than by any other economic mechanism. It represents an entitlement that would make Mr. Dalidio \$100 million richer with the stroke of a pen.) The developers would then leave the public with the bill for the overpass necessary to (partially) accommodate the traffic generated by their giant shopping mall.

That's quite a bushel-basket of public

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SANTA LUCIAN

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Humboldt's Gift

County bans corporate involvement in elections

The most significant outcome of the June 6 election anywhere in California occurred in Humboldt County, where the voters passed the Humboldt County Ordinance to Protect Our Right to Fair Elections and Local Democracy, prohibiting any non-local corporation from contributing to any candidate campaign, referendum or recall in county elections.

"Our hope was to ensure local control over our elections," said Humboldt Coalition for Community Rights spokesperson Yvonne Doble. "We wanted to make sure that elections – a vital part of democracy – happen fairly. We think that the folks who live in this county should be the ones deciding who is elected and we think that large corporations from outside our community should not have the ability to dictate what happens in our local elections. I was born and raised here and I want to preserve the way of life I grew up with – the people who live here should determine our future."

The ordinance also restricts corporations from claiming constitutional rights. Corporations have been able to claim 1st Amendment protections when contributing to political campaigns ever since the Supreme Court ruled that money was equal to speech in the 1970s. "Only people should have rights – the idea that corporations can claim rights is false and ridiculous," said Nezzie Wade, a College of the Redwoods professor. "The issue is simple, who do we want deciding the future of our county – the people who live here or outside corporations? We need to protect our right to fair elections and local democracy."

The ordinance came about due in part to a 2004 recall attempt of Humboldt County District Attorney Paul Gallegos that was financed primarily by Maxxam Corporation, which was feeling heat from the D.A. due to their rapacious and often illegal logging of the Headwaters Forest.

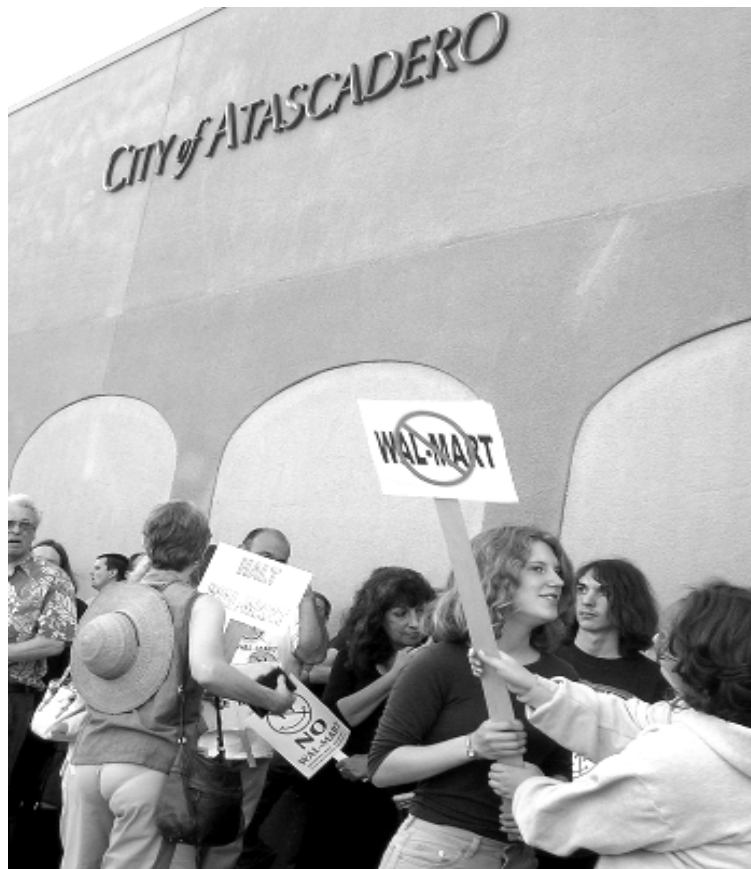
"Some folks may have seen that issue as resolved," said Doble, "but we were concerned about the

potential chilling effect the recall may have had on other public officials. Will they think twice before enforcing the law against other corporations? The reality is that large corporations have the money to bully our elected representatives – Maxxam/Palco spent \$250,000 to try to buy an election."

Larry Glass, a business owner in Eureka and Arcata, was pleased by the successful passage of the ordinance, "I think this will go a long way to level the playing field. Large corporations like Walmart have been forcing themselves on communities by way of the initiative process – communities are helpless against their deep pockets and so called 'rights' – this will really help protect our community and will be good for the local businesses."

"This is something to truly celebrate," said a spokesperson for the national Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy (POCLAD). "It's not one of those 'sort-of' victories, but a solid measure, presented to the public in a campaign, and solidly approved. Congratulations to all involved in the campaign in Humboldt County."

Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County, the authors of the Humboldt County Ordinance to Protect Our Right to Fair Elections and Local Democracy, can be reached at (707) 269-0984 or www.DUHC.org.



Chapter Reps Headed for Democracy School

Corporate Accountability Committee going to the heart of the matter

The Sierra Club will hold a national "Deep Democracy Retreat" over the weekend of August 11-13 at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center in Marin County, just north of San Francisco.

The 3-day gathering focusing on community organizing and securing environmental protection by re-asserting popular sovereignty over corporations will be limited to 18 participants due to the limitations of the Oaec boarding space. A small group of Club leaders, including two Santa Lucia chapter members, have been invited to attend based on their willingness to grapple with "the big picture" and openness to "thinking in ways that can effect deep and systemic change."

"We had several hundred folks at our breakout session last year during

the Sierra Summit, but this is the first 'school' that we are conducting," said national Corporate Accountability Committee member Dick Worthen. "The Committee is excited and anxious to share the message with Sierra leaders. It promises to be a significant weekend."

The Corporate Accountability Committee is part of a pro-democracy movement that goes beyond the tactics of challenging one regulation or corporation at a time and works nationally and internationally to challenge the rules giving corporations undue power and influence.

The primary corporate accountability challenges for the Sierra Club are the passage of laws to hold corporations accountable to citizen-defined and government-enforced envi-

"Today, the largest non-governmental landowners are corporations. The biggest share-holders in Fortune 500 corporations are other corporations. Corporations define the country's education, food, energy, labor, transportation, news, information, health, land use, military and monetary policy."

- POCLAD

Feds Gunning for Plovers

Proposed rule would further erode protections

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, after slashing protected coastal habitat for the Western snowy plover by a third last year, is now proposing a "Section 4(d) rule" that would hand an Endangered Species Act exemption to counties where plovers nest if those counties can show plover numbers have met recovery goals for two of the previous five years.

Apparently meant as a consolation prize for the City of Morro Bay, the proposed rule was tacked on to the Service's recent rejection of the City's attempt to have the Pacific population of the Western snowy plover removed entirely from the protections of the Endangered Species Act. Though the Bush appointees who run the Service could not find scientific cover to endorse the wistful claim

continued on page 4

ronmental standards, and the overturning of domestic laws and court decisions that unfairly enable all corporations to exploit the Earth and its inhabitants. This requires joining with other movements to challenge the unfair trade and capital investment rules proposed by the WTO, IMF and World Bank, and incorporated into such agreements as the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

"The three-day event will challenge the assumptions that we all hold about what it means to live in a democracy, what a successful environmental movement should look like, and the proper relationship between people, corporations and our government," said Worthen. "This is a new paradigm."

Diablo*continued from page 1*

likelihood that the NRC will order design changes to make the casks less vulnerable to terrorist attack. Possible protective measures could include putting the casks behind protective barriers or scattering them so that they do not present one large target from the air.

In the weeks after the ruling, our community's win was used in San Francisco at the California Public Utilities Commission. In a general rate case, PG&E is seeking permission from the Commission to make ratepayers pay for an in-house feasibility study on the renewal of Diablo Canyon's operating permit for another twenty years. Sierra Club and the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility are co-intervenors in the case, having filed at the CPUC to oppose PG&E's request for \$19 million in ratepayer funds. We presented the court's ruling as evidence supporting denial of PG&E's request and to support the California Energy Commission's recommendation for an independent cost/benefit/risk analysis of the state's continued dependence on nuclear power plants.

On June 3, PG&E spokesman Jeff Lewis told the *L.A. Times* that the court's decision "does not affect" current operations at Diablo Canyon and would have no effect on the construction schedule of the fuel storage casks there. On June 14, under questioning from the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, PG&E admitted that the 9th Circuit ruling "has a potential to impact the project schedule" for the dry cask storage facility.

On June 28, Sierra Club and Mothers for Peace filed a motion for declaratory judgment with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The motion asks the NRC to put PG&E on notice that PG&E's permit to use the dry cask storage facility at Diablo Canyon has effectively been revoked by the 9th Circuit, that construction should not begin until the environmental review has been completed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and that if PG&E continues construction work on the storage facility for the Diablo Canyon site it risks having its permit denied.

You can read or download the 9th Circuit Court decision at www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/downloads/2006-06-02diablodecision.pdf

Blakeslee's Bill: First Legislative Action on Radioactive Waste Problems in 20 years

By the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

When Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee introduced the bill AB 1632 on June 15, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, Sierra Club, Environment California, TURN, Environmental Priorities Network, ECOSLO, and Physicians for Social Responsibility - L.A. immediately signed in support.

This is a ground-breaking step to address both high-level radioactive waste and seismicity on our precious coast. This bill is not about good neighbors, jobs, property taxes or other benefits to be gleaned from a nuclear plant on an earthquake active coastal zone; it is about lethal radioactive waste left on our county's earthquake-active coast for generations after the last job, property tax payment and kilowatt has flowed from Diablo Canyon.

Although the bill falls short of end-

ing the production of high-level radioactive waste at Diablo Canyon when current licenses expire in twenty years, we are encouraged that after twenty years there is a reasonable dialogue on aging nuclear reactors. The Alliance will continue to encourage support for the California Energy Commission's cost, benefit and risk analysis of the state's dependence on aging nuclear reactors post current license terms. We hope PG&E will view this as an opportunity to achieve the utility's goal of "wind, water and sun" as future energy supplies for our state. We also hope this will cause PG&E's management to rethink filing for a license renewal in 2010, fifteen years before current licenses are set to expire.

Blakeslee's bill seeks to assure that our community will be able to ad-

dress issues that could devastate the economy and leave a legacy of fear each time the earth moves or a terrorist threatens our country. It is hard to imagine how anyone could oppose such a responsible state action to assure these issues are addressed and resolved

before a license renewal can be filed by California's two operating nuclear utilities.

For the past two years, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility has been meeting with state representatives, energy groups, service and environmental organizations, businesses and oversight agencies in hope that Californians will begin to address issues of energy, waste, jobs, taxes, infrastructure, environment and economics of aging nuclear reactors. We are pleased that it is our Assemblyman who has taken the lead and we look forward to working with his office and all California representatives over the next few years.

Senators from California's other reactor communities and energy committees have agreed to co-sponsor this bill. Co-authors of the Blakeslee bill include Senators Chesbro (D-Humboldt), Kehoe (D-San Diego) and Assemblymembers De La Torre, Evans and Harmon.



Mark Skinner, Paula Daillak, Rochelle Becker and David Weissman of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility with exhibits they entered into evidence at the June 20 PG&E ratepayer case in San Francisco. See "Don't Relicense Diablo!" at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

Plovers*continued from page 3*

that the Pacific plovers are insufficiently different from their eastern cousins to warrant continued protection, the feds are offering to find other ways to erode the Endangered Species Act so as to make life easier for beachfront developers and the motorized recreation lobby.

The Santa Lucia Chapter and Ventana Chapter (Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties) successfully opposed the attempt the de-list the plover from the ESA. With the Marin Audubon Society, we are opposing the proposed "special rule" to exempt counties from the Endangered Species Act where plover protection is concerned.

Our comments to the USFWS on the proposed special rule make the following points:

The proposed rule erodes the legal

framework that remains in place to protect the plover, creates a "windfall" for counties that have met recovery goals principally through conservation efforts by state parks or wildlife refuges, does not implement the goals and prescriptions of the Draft Recovery Plan, and will retard, rather than promote, advances toward recovery goals. The rule creates fewer or no incentives for the agencies actually managing plover habitat. As it is not the counties that have carried the brunt of plover recovery measures, the proposed rule will, if anything, promote injurious activities and projects on lands under county jurisdiction adjacent to or proximate to State Park beaches or federally managed beaches

The proposed rule is based on the

COSE Failing First Test

By Richard Schmidt

Now that the City of San Luis Obispo's new Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) is approved, its worth lies in whether it gets implemented. Initial signs are not encouraging.

A local resident wants to build a large house in his back yard as the first step towards subdividing his property, selling both houses, and leaving the country. The interior of this block (bounded by Broad, Mission, Chorro and Murray Streets) is at the heart of what is arguably one of the best wildlife habitats within the city, thanks to Old Garden Creek's summertime surface flow width of 6 to 10 feet, combined with deep lots with no or minimal development on their rear portions. The house would sit astride the junction of two significant wildlife corridors shown on the corridor map in the new COSE. The project will abuse both these corridors, blocking access between San Luis mountain and the creek and harassing movement along the creek while fragmenting the habitat due

*continued on page 10**continued on page 7*

Coastal Cleanup Day is September 16

*by Patrick Kirby
Volunteer Coordinator, ECOSLO*

This is an International event in which volunteers from around the world take three hours of one day (this year it is Sept 16th) and collect trash and recyclables from beaches, creeks, rivers, tributaries, and wetlands.

Last year California had 50,000

volunteers that collected 970,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from 700 sites. San Luis Obispo County had 1,096 volunteers over 24 sites that collected 3,566 pounds of trash & 889 pounds of recycling for a total of 4,455 pounds in just three hours.

This year we still have sites that

are in need of Captains as well as volunteers. We would also like to see some more sites added such as creeks and lakes. I hope that you will be able to help out this year. Our ultimate goal is for there to be no need of a Coastal Cleanup Day, however this will take quite a bit of

work and we need all the help we can get.

If you or a group is interested in helping with this event, please contact me at patrick@ecoslo.org or call me at 805-544-1777.

Look Northward, SLO

Santa Cruz County issues very different report on genetically engineered crops

The SLO County Health Commission has reviewed the report on the health risks of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) completed by its GMO Task Force last May. The County Board of Supervisors is expected to deliberate on August 22.

The report reads largely as a supplementary text to the biotech lobby's defense of genetically engineered foods, aka genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which rests on the argument that GE foods have been in large-scale commercial production for a decade with no ill effects.

The report states: "Scientists and federal regulatory officials generally agreed that long-term monitoring of the human health risks ...is not necessary because there is no scientific evidence suggesting any long-term harm from these foods."

The only way that harm could be identified, of course, would be through the research that would discover the harms and establish links

to the cause of harm. Without the research, there is no way of knowing what harm GMOs are doing to the population.

Between 1994-2001, food-related illnesses doubled, paralleling the commercial introduction and expansion of genetically modified organisms. In the UK, soy allergies rose 50% following the introduction of GE soy.

Unblinded, there is no way to trace the potential ill effects of ingestion of genetically modified organisms.

On June 20th, The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to support the adoption of a Precautionary Moratorium on the planting of genetically engineered crops in the county as recommended by the GE Subcommittee of the Public Health Commission.

County attorneys have begun drafting language for the ordinance to enact restrictions on GE crops.

The Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo reports, compiled on the same subject at virtually the same time at the behest of their respective health commissions, in nearly adjacent counties, could not be more different. The Santa Cruz report concludes that a moratorium on genetically engineered crops is required immediately; the San Luis Obispo report, on every page, strains to conclude that there is no cause for alarm or action.

There are several likely reasons for this discrepancy, many of them indicated in the photo at right.

"We note the vast difference between the Santa Cruz report and that recently issued by the San Luis Obispo GMO Task Force," said Mark Phillips of SLO GE Free. "We have criticized the process used to select members for the SLO GMO Task Force, which eliminated potential candidates solely because they took a public stance in favor of Measure Q [banning cultivation of GE crops in SLO] but allowed several people who were publicly opposed to Measure Q to serve on the committee. The Santa Cruz members were selected differently, resulting in a broad spectrum

of community members including the county agriculture commissioner, Farm Bureau members, organic farmers, local food activists and the director of the county Health Service Agency, among others. We believe that the difference in these reports can be traced to the difference in the selection process used to determine membership on the committee."

The Santa Cruz GE Subcommittee spent more than 10 months researching the health, environmental, economic and social risks associated with the growing of GE crops in the county.

The subcommittee concluded:

§ No long-term human health testing or assessments have been done on GE foods, so no claims can be made about GE safety.

§ Health risks of GE crops include allergens, toxicity, carcinogens, altered fertility, increased antibiotic resistance, novel infectious diseases and adverse impacts on the human immune and endocrine systems.

§ A federal audit found that the

USDA is not following its own limited standards for these crops.

§ California has no structure for regulating GE crops.

The Santa Cruz supervisors also moved to send their Subcommittee report and their ordinance to the state legislature and as well as every county in California, in order to encourage statewide action similar to their own.

"We can keep our house clean, or we can try," said Supervisor Mark Stone, "but this needs to be addressed at state and national levels."

The full report can be accessed via the Internet at:

<http://tinyurl.com/kfsxv>

TAKE ACTION

Come to the August 22 meeting of the County Board of Supervisors and speak in favor of requiring federal labeling of genetically engineered food and the local labeling of genetically engineered produce sold at farm stands and farmers markets in San Luis Obispo County.

Potato Zero

The report of the SLO GMO Task Force purports to examine the explosively controversial aftermath of the most in-depth animal feeding study ever conducted on a genetically engineered food, in which British researcher Arpad Pusztai fed GE potatoes to rats which subsequently developed liver, heart, and brain abnormalities due to a toxin produced by the potato's engineered genes.

Pusztai used the same process used to create GE foods sold commercially. The premier researcher in the field of lectin proteins, author of 300 studies and 12 books, Pusztai was a booster of biotech and genetically engineered foods until he was confronted with the results of his 1998 study. His scheduled follow-up research was cancelled by the Rowett Institute, he was gagged, fired, refused access to his research, and intensely attacked by the biotech industry and the media, which distorted and widely misstated his methodology and results.

Dr. Scott Steinmaus, the Cal Poly genetic engineer who was chosen as vice chair of the GMO Task Force, told the County Health Commission that the Task Force had noted that England's Royal Society had weighed in on Pusztai's research and pronounced it flawed. The Task Force considered this judgment to be the end of the matter.

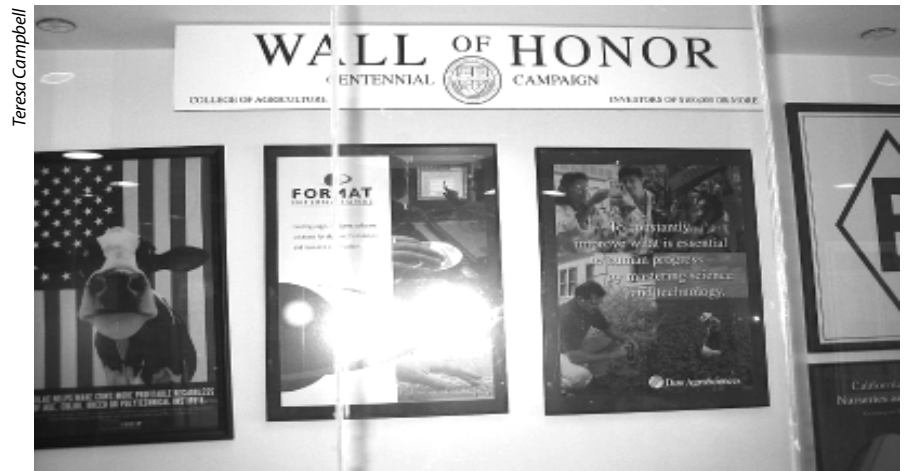
Here one detects the general inclination, centuries old, to genuflect to and take at face value any opinions that come from any scientists, since they all operate, we have always believed, in the rarefied air of objective truth and on the hallowed ground of pure logic.

Across the pond, the Royal Society's homeboys have taken a more updated view of that institution and of the issue in question.

In its May 29, 1999, issue, *The*

"What I was doing was safety studies; what they were doing was as little as possible to get their foods on the market as quickly as possible."

- Arpad Pusztai



Not exactly impartial: The presence of biotech giants Monsanto (left) and Dow (right) on the Cal Poly College of Agriculture honor wall for \$100,000+ donors illustrates the problem when scientists are called upon to render unbiased judgments on their patrons' products.

Lawsuit Challenges FDA Policy on GE Foods

The Center for Food Safety has filed suit against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the agency's failure to adopt any pre-market safety requirements for genetically engineered foods, and for failing to require labels so consumers can know when foods contain ingredients from GE crops.

The CFS lawsuit calls for a mandatory, pre-market regulatory review system for all genetically engineered foods. Currently, there are no binding FDA regulations to

protect the public from the risks of the genetically engineered foods that are found in thousands of products on supermarket shelves.

CFS and over fifty consumer and environmental groups, including the Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Natural Resources Defense Council, and others filed a detailed legal petition with FDA in March 2000, outlining the comprehensive

continued on page 7

from transnational biotechnology corporations, such as Rhone Poulenc [part of Aventis] and Glaxo Wellcome.

"Honouring such generous donors by making them part of its 'President's Circle,' the Society bizarrely justifies such donations by saying that it will ensure it can 'formulate balanced judgements about the use of science to solve national, social, economic and industrial problems...independent of vested

interests'.

"Until the 1960s, the Philosophical Transactions of the Society carried an advertisement in every issue claiming: 'It is an established rule of the Royal Society...never to give their opinion, as a Body, upon any subject'.

"In recent years these words have been quietly dropped, and now it seems that British citizens are paying taxes to fund an organisation that actively promotes the interests of

continued on page 10

Taking Issue

problematic recent environmental commentary & coverage in our local press

"State Coastal Commission ignores recent appointments," Samantha Young, Associated Press, *The Tribune*, June 13, 2006
 "Developer withdraws plans for Pebble Beach golf project," Marcus Wohle, Associated Press, *The Tribune*, June 14, 2006
 (and "Sierra Club questions Nunez appointments as key vote draws near," Samantha Young, Associated Press, June 9, 2006)

Stories about Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Nunez' effort to influence a Coastal Commission vote in favor of his developer friends also ran on June 10 in the *Monterey County Herald*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *Contra Costa Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *Fresno Bee* and *San Jose Mercury News*.

On June 9, Speaker Nunez sent a letter to the California Coastal Commission announcing that he was replacing Coastal Commission Alternate David Allgood with developer-friendly attorney Elizabeth Brem. Allgood has a proven track record of trying to protect the coast, and he was going to be filling in for Commissioner Steve Padilla at the June 14 Coastal Commission hearing on whether to allow the Pebble Beach Company to build yet another golf

course, driving range and equestrian center as well as mansions and resort development, an environmental disaster in the largest remaining native coastal Monterey pine forest in the world.

The obvious purpose of the Speaker's aborted action was to provide the swing vote necessary for the Pebble Beach Company to secure a vote of approval. Nunez got sucked into a vortex of his own making when he tried to make his power play look like something other than what it was, in a hasty attempt to create a smoke screen by trying to appoint 3 more alternates. The outcome was not what he expected. Nunez failed to get Padilla to play along with replacing Allgood, then Commissioner Dave Potter refused to agree to the alternate appointment of Seaside

Mayor Ralph Rubio, a notoriously pro-development vote on the Seaside City Council with a particular fondness of hotels on sand dunes. The Speaker then attempted to get Allgood out of the way by moving him over to serve as Commissioner Bill Burke's alternate. But this could only happen if Padilla removed Allgood as his alternate or Allgood resigned. Allgood can't serve as an alternate to two commissioners and is already sworn in for Padilla. Not even a letter the Speaker coerced out of Burke could effectuate the appointment.

The appointments were never confirmed, and the project was with-

drawn from the Commission's agenda. While the Associated Press covered this story, they missed the most interesting, and obvious, facts of the case and did not do an adequate job of demonstrating the clear political motivation. They allowed the Speaker to deny any nefarious intent and let it rest without providing any factual context.

State Coastal Commission ignores recent appointments

The appointment of Padilla's alternate never took place, because as a matter of law, the process to appoint her wasn't followed. The Commission didn't "ignore" the appointment. There was no appointment to ignore. The AP coverage left readers with the impression that this was a legal question debated between the Coastal Commission and the Speaker's office and a power struggle between Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas and Speaker Nunez. Commission staff was simply upholding the law, and the Speaker was attempting to subvert it.

The only Commissioner who was not going to attend the Pebble Beach hearing was Padilla. This was public knowledge. Therefore, the only alternate whose existence meant anything for the purpose of the hearing was Padilla's. The fact that Elizabeth Brem is an attorney for the firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, which regularly represents developers, is a strong indicator of the Speaker's motives.

Nunez dismissed allegations that his last-minute appointments were made to influence the vote, saying he did not "know what was going on at the Commission" regarding the development.

Alan Williams, an architect of the Pebble Beach project, said he had briefed Nunez on the project...

The Speaker's office could not possibly have thought that they could legally do so or otherwise have misinterpreted the statute, which leaves no room for debate over the process for appointing alternate commissioners:

Nunez spokesman Steve Maviglio defended the appointments, saying the speaker has the right to make the changes.

Section 30304 Alternate members; appointments: Any member of the commission may, subject to the confirmation of his or her appointing power, appoint an alternate member to represent him or her at any commission meeting. An alternate may serve prior to confirmation for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of appointment unless and until confirmation is specifically refused. The alternate shall serve at the pleasure of the member who appointed him or her and shall have all the powers and duties as a member of the commission, except that the alternate shall only participate and vote in meetings in the absence of the member who appointed him or her.

The press took at face value the flim-flam explanation that the Speaker wanted the alternates to represent the same geographic areas as their primary Commissioners. Adi Lieberman, the new alternate for Pat Kruer, resides in Northridge (L.A. County). Kruer resides in Rancho Santa Fe (San Diego County). This is made doubly ironic by the fact that of all the attempted so-called "new appointments," Lieberman's is the only one that actually stuck.

"We had two vacancies and we wanted to make sure all of our alternates were from the geographic area they represented," Maviglio said.



One day later... not so much. If there was any doubt left about the political nature of the aborted appointment, the subsequent action of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors put it to rest. Acting at the request of the Pebble Beach Company, The County Board withdrew the application for the golf course the day before the Commission was scheduled to hear it. Without Brem sitting in for Padilla, they knew they didn't have the votes on the Commission (thanks to the tremendous educational effort of the Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places Campaign). The Pebble Beach Company and this proposal will be back, but this was a monumental victory for coastal protection, in the face of immense political pressure.

The *real* story here is that Commissioner Steve Padilla, mayor of the blue-collar border town of Chula Vista, and the only commissioner whose alternate would actually be attending the Coastal Commission meeting, did the unthinkable and refused to play ball with the Speaker of the Assembly, the third most powerful man in the state. Padilla stood his ground, thus making his backbone the only thing standing between Pebble Beach Company and the destruction of 17,000 endangered Monterey pine trees and an entire forest ecosystem. It also put him squarely in the Speaker's crosshairs, and his political future on the line. (Padilla faces a tough re-election campaign in the fall.)

Mayor Padilla is a hero. Rarely does a public official display this level of integrity, moral courage and willingness to sacrifice political patronage on behalf of the public interest. Chula Vista is fortunate indeed to have such leadership at the helm. Environmentalists should support him in every way and in any future bids he may make for higher office, as he is clearly a politician willing to speak truth to power.

COSE

continued from page 4

to its location at the center of the block's wild area.

The creek-mountain linkage is crucial for wildlife. Three-fourths of the mountain's base is urbanized. Water is inaccessible or non-existent along most of that perimeter. For the urbanized portion, water access is available via Broad Street and links to Old Garden Creek. If this is cut off, the impacts on mountain wildlife are likely to be devastating.

The Conservation and Open Space Element is explicit about the City's responsibility to protect wildlife from development impacts:

"Animals move within and through habitat areas to find water, food, shelter, and to reproduce.... Urban development...change[s] the landscape too quickly for many animals to adapt, thus interrupting and blocking such movement.... As a steward for the natural resources of future generations, the City must preserve habitat and the species that it supports" (COSE 7.10).

"The City will protect listed species through its actions on... development applications..." (COSE 7.21.1.D). "The City will Protect species of local concern through its ac-



Unprotected: SLO says COSE doesn't cover this.

tions on...development applications...[and] protect sensitive habitat, including creeks, from encroachment by...human activities." (COSE 7.21.2.C and E.)

There are at least eight species of local concern on or adjacent to the property, plus several listed by state and federal agencies, which could be subject to significant impacts from this project.

The City approved the project's administrative permit on June 2. Staff alleges the intersecting wildlife corridors shown on the COSE map aren't on the property, but offers no plausible explanation as to where else they might be! The city has never done baseline studies to determine wildlife usage of the area, so it has no data to back up its claims.

Perhaps the City Council's unanimous adoption of the COSE was cynical; adoption of nice wildlife protection policies that its members can mention when running for office — which the majority of the councilmembers who voted for the COSE will be doing this year. But do they want to have to say they really didn't want this thing implemented?

Property Rights

continued from page 2

largesse to accommodate an assertion of private property rights.

To see where this leads, one need look no further than the ultimate strategy of the most anti-environmental member of Congress, Rep. Richard Pombo, whose plan to gut the Endangered Species Act involves requiring the federal government to pay landowners, developers or corporations every time the government tells them they cannot destroy or pollute the habitat of endangered species. As preventing them from doing so would involve a "taking" of potential profits by the government, the government must compensate the private party in whatever amount of money the private party estimates it would have made were it not barred from trashing the public trust.

Should such a provision become law, the government will face a choice between non-enforcement of environmental laws or going broke.

On a smaller scale, the Atascadero Planning Commission did a good thing when it recently refused to exempt motorcycle enthusiasts from the city's residential noise ordinance.

A flyer circulated through the city's neighborhoods got right to the point and turned out residents for the Planning Commission meeting thusly: "Imagine a beautiful Sunday afternoon, a group of friends decide to ride their motorcycles until nightfall. Is it right that 100-150 other residents of this neighborhood should be denied their right to enjoy their property? Cancel the gardening project, the Easter BBQ, we better leave for a few hours so we can hear each other speak, hopefully they'll quit by the time we get back?"

"Each one of us in Atascadero is at risk for the same scenario. Look across the yard to your neighbor's property, whether it's ¼ acre or 5 acres, you have no recourse if your neighbor wants to ride their motorcycle all day, any day, no protection of your right to peace and quiet."

Though the Planning Commission did not refer to the observation of Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter that "Your right to swing your arm ends where my nose begins," it acted in full accordance with it.

So should we all.

GE Lawsuit

continued from page 5

approach that the agency should be taking to assess the health and safety issues from new GE foods.

FDA first adopted a hands-off policy on GE foods in 1992, and despite mounting evidence of health and environmental threats from GE crops, has never significantly changed its deregulatory stance. The lawsuit challenges FDA's unreasonable delay in failing to respond to the March 2000 petition.

"For too long, the FDA has let biotech companies set the table for deregulation of GE food," said Joseph Mendelson, Legal Director for the Center for Food Safety. "Over six years ago, we challenged the agency to come up with a scientific defense for their lax approach to GE foods. Their failure to respond demonstrates the lack of science behind their GE foods policy."

The CFS challenge to FDA calls for rigorous testing on GE foods before they are marketed. Scientists, including FDA physicians and scientists have warned that genetic engineering is different than traditional breeding techniques and may have different risks. FDA and other scientists have warned that GE foods could trigger unexpected food allergies, create toxins in food, and/or hasten the spread of antibiotic-resistant disease.

Despite these scientific warnings, FDA's policy assumes that gene altered foods are safe based solely on scant information that biotechnology companies voluntarily submit in consultations with FDA. Since these consultations are voluntary, industry determines what information they submit and in what form. Generally submissions include merely compositional comparisons to show that GE foods are "equivalent" to their natural counterparts.

But scientists say that such comparisons cannot adequately address the kinds of unexpected changes in food that the genetic engineering process can create, including changes that could create health concerns. Last fall Australian

scientists were surprised to find that genes from a bean engineered into pea plants created a potentially dangerous allergen in the GE peas. The tests that exposed this potential hazard have not been conducted on any of the GE foods currently marketed in the U.S., even though these foods contain genes from non-food organisms that have never been in the human diet and have never been adequately assessed for allergenicity.

Countries that have adopted mandatory pre-market approval and labeling systems for GE foods include Russia, China, Brazil, India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and all of the European Union. In international forums, FDA and other U.S. officials have endorsed at least three agreements on safety assessments and pre-market review to protect consumers around the world from the risks of GE foods. But FDA's own guidelines for American consumers do not follow these international safety standards.

In developing its lax GE foods policies, FDA was heavily influenced by biotechnology interests. A former attorney for Monsanto, the world's leading producer of GE crops, developed FDA's policy on GE food labeling when working as an FDA regulator in the mid-1990s. Previous legal actions by CFS unearthed numerous FDA documents showing that agency scientists warned of unintended health risks from GE foods, but were overruled by political appointees.

"While the rest of the world is rejecting these risky, untested foods, FDA's unscientific approach is making American consumers the world's guinea pigs in this genetic food experiment," said Mendelson. "Americans deserve the right to know what's in their food. FDA must stop playing politics and start developing a science-based policy to protect Americans from these risky foods."

The lawsuit was filed June 7 in district court in Washington, DC.

HopeDance

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www.hopedance.org
or contact:
info@hopedance.org
Tel: (805) 544-9663

Las Tablas Arm of Nacimiento Lake

By Jack Beigle



After a short portage, we put in on the shore of Franklin Creek. Oaks, gray pines and sycamores lined the canyon from the skyline to the creek edge. The spring rains raised the lake level to the point that we could paddle through the trees that were previously on the creek shore when the water level was lower.

Cal French led us to a hawk's nest, full of young birds, but we couldn't tell their species. While we were watching, a red tailed hawk flew in with a small fish in its bill, fed a chick and departed to find another. Farther down stream, just below the confluence with Las Tablas creek, we saw an adult bald eagle sitting on a nest. We didn't see any chicks. They must have gotten a late start this spring.

This was a good year for the bright yellow sticky monkey flowers. They were blooming along the shore in bright contrast to the bright green oak trees and shrubs. We took out on the east shore for lunch and watched the party boats cruise by with their loud music playing.

After lunch we paddled back up the canyon with a sometimes gusty wind at our backs. It was a good time to think how lucky we are to spend this beautiful day

in a beautiful place with beautiful friends in beautiful boats. Places like this are worth protecting for future generations!

This outing was especially enjoyable to me because this is my last Paddler's Corner. Grace and I will be selling our house in Pismo Beach and moving to Pacific Grove. Joe and Ann Dickerson will be the outing leaders for the SLO Paddlers. Joe and Ann have been assistants and safety boaters on our outings for many years. They will continue the tradition of great canoe and kayak outings.

I am looking forward to driving south and joining them on some of their outings after we get settled in our new location.

*A beautiful day
On Nacimiento Lake
Building memories*

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.

Jack Beigle :o)



So long, Jack.

What a Party That Was!

"Our Legacy and Promise," the Santa Lucia Chapter's first annual fundraiser and awards banquet, was a major success. More than 120 people paid \$125 each to come to the Atascadero Lake Pavilion on June 10 to celebrate the Sierra Club's accomplishments in San Luis Obispo -- and help us to accomplish a lot more. We made \$11,500 for the evening.



Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible, with special thanks to Inga Swearingen and keyboardist Linda Vanasupa who donated their time and talents to further the mission of the Sierra Club!



Inga Swearingen and her trio provided smashing entertainment for the evening.

2006 Santa Lucia Chapter Awards

PROMISE OF CONSERVATION AWARD To JEFF KUYPER

With appreciation for his commitment to protect and preserve the legacy of wilderness and conservation in the Los Padres National Forest

ACIVIST HISTORIAN AWARD To JAN CLUCAS

With thanks and appreciation for her passionate activism to protect and preserve open spaces throughout the County, and to honor the proud history of conservation by members of the Santa Lucia Chapter.

LIGHTNING ROD AWARD To SARAH CHRISTIE

In recognition of her fearless defense of our open space, wild coast and environmental laws, and her ability to take the political heat without flinching.



Sarah Christie (right) suggested her Lightning Rod Award should go to the man who appointed her to the County Planning Commission, District 5 Supervisor Jim Patterson (upper right).

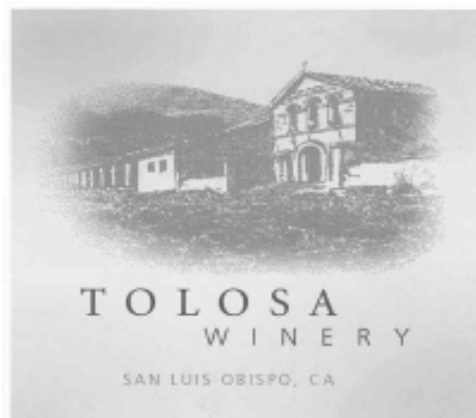
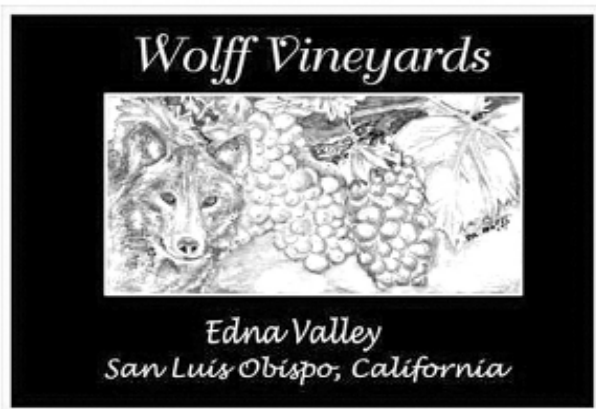


Chapter Chair Karen Merriam presented Jack Beigle with the Chapter's highest honor, the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award.



Sierra Club President Lisa Renstrom keynoted. "It is our patriotic duty to reduce our dependence on oil... The next wave of the environmental movement will be about partnering with huge swaths of American society and unleashing innovation."

Many thanks to our donors:



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LAETITIA
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John Ashbaugh's Powerpoint presentation "100 Years of Land Conservation in SLO County" was a highlight of the evening. You can view it in its entirety at <http://santalucia.sierraclub.org>

Servers

- Hugo Rios
- Jovanna Rios
- Glenda Cisneros
- Cuahutemoc Garcia
- Ivette Perez
- Jess Haydon
- Deb Varna
- Mandy Davis

Bartender

Alex Rothenberg

Decorations & Glassware

- Mary Ann Rutshaw
- San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden
- Cortland Zoff
- Trader Joe's

Music

- The Hushpuppies (Jack Morrow, Del Gomes, Judith Bean)
- Inga Sweareingen
- Linda Vanasupa
- Jennings Jacobson
- Brian Lanzone

Special thanks

- Evy Justesen - dessert coordinator
- Leslie Krinsk - wine coordinator
- Charlie Fruit, Coast National Bank
- David & Margaret Hennessey
- Andy & Jeanie Greensfelder
- Jim Gates
- McGees Catering
- Pavilion on the Lake

LEGACY OF CONSERVATION AWARD

To **JAMES SINTON**

In recognition of his lifetime of contributions to the protection, preservation and enjoyment of the wild lands of eastern San Luis Obispo County.

UNsung HERO AWARD

To **JOAN O'KEEFE**

with thanks for her years of service to the Chapter, participation in many activities, the wearing of many hats, and her willingness to step in and take on duties whenever they needed doing.

UNsung HERO AWARD

To **DENNY MYNATT**

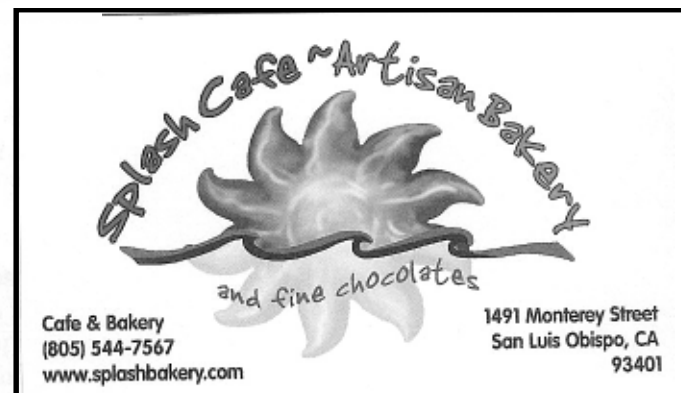
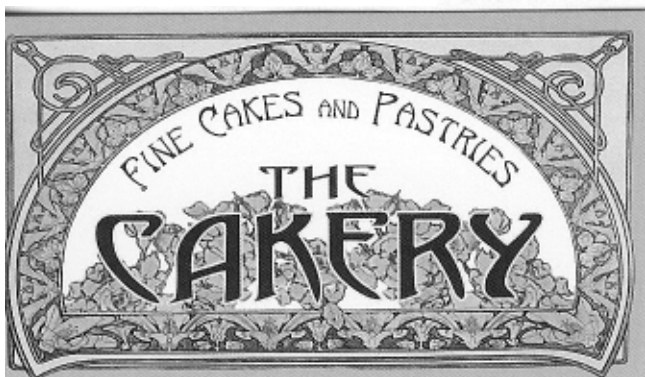
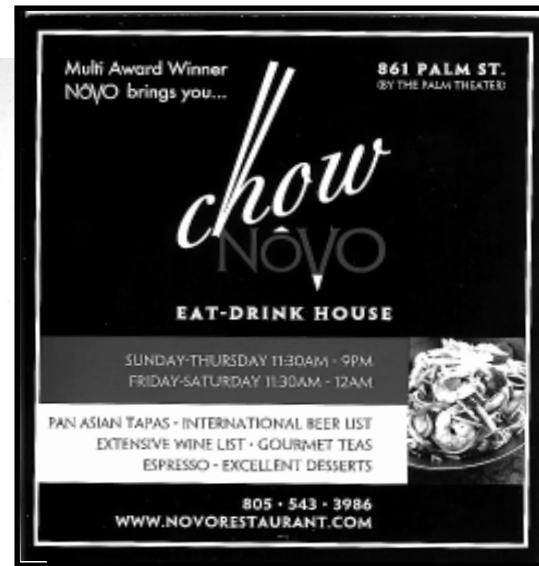
In appreciation of his unwavering commitment to the performance of those tasks without which our Chapter could not function.



Letty French presents the Legacy award to Jim Sinton.



Peter Douglas, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission



Letters

[cc of a note sent to Carl Pope, Executive Director, Sierra Club]

Dear Carl,

Please read the enclosed article ("A Hunting Will We Go?," May *Santa Lucian*). Personally, I could not believe that our Sierra Club, the protector of wildlife and environmental guru, would sponsor hunting!! Have we been infiltrated by the NRA??

I am angry that the Club's resources would be spent in such an obscene way!! Essays on "Why I Hunt" with a first prize of \$12,700 plus a hunting trip to a hunters lodge in Alaska and another \$3,000 flies in the face of what I believe the Sierra Club is about. There are definitely better projects for that kind of

Atascadero

continued from page 1

where the federal government has failed and achieve energy savings and improve their city's quality of life by aiming at a target: The reduction of their global warming emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012.

O'Malley signed up the city on May 23, saying he wanted to exceed these expectations and do more.

Atascadero's road to signing on was several months long, and the effort was spearheaded by Cuesta College and Atascadero High School students. They took private meetings with the mayor and testified at city council meetings as to the energy and financial savings realized by other cities that have adopted the alternative energy, energy efficiency and conservation programs urged in the Mayors Agreement.

"He went from 'we'll see what staff has to say about a cost/benefit analysis, we'll put a report on the agenda,' etc., to signing the agreement without even a vote from the City Council," marveled Jono Kinkade of Cuesta Grassroots and the Santa Lucia Chapter's Conservation Committee. Kinkade, Brandon Istenes of the Atascadero High School Earth Club and fellow AHS students were notably persistent in persuading the mayor to sign on, with welcome assists from Councilman George Luna and the Atascadero Native Tree Association.

Mayor Dave Romero of San Luis Obispo and Janice Peters of Morro Bay have previously agreed to sup-

money. (\$15,700: I'm not happy to learn that our dues/donations – even a private donation – might be used in this unworthy way.

Unless this is addressed very soon, you can count me *out*.

Trophy hunting is disgusting! It is only an "ego inflator" for the mindless and uncaring. It's certainly nothing worthwhile.

The only time I could consider hunting

Potato

continued from page 5

multinational biotech corporations, under the guise of independent science." ("The Royal Society: Best of British science or corporate rent-boy?" *GMWATCH* No. 6, February 8, 2003.)

The phenomenon described by Dr. Wakeford is not exclusive to the U.K. Writing in the March 2006 issue of *Harper's* on "the political machinery of American science," Celia Farber noted that "Today's scientists are almost wholly dependent on the goodwill of government researchers and powerful peer review boards, who control a financial network binding together the National Institutes of Health, academia, and the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. Many scientists live in fear of losing their funding."

port the Mayors Agreement. While some Central Coast cities have promising individual programs — encouragement of the use of solar power in new construction, mandating U.S. Green Building standards, etc. — without the inventory of emissions and establishment of reduction targets that is the heart of the U.S. May-

valid would be necessary survival.

Apparently a lot of members are not aware of this as most of us are not hunters.

I received a phone call to raise money for a special project of Sierra Club. The caller was shocked to learn of this. Needless to say, he did not pursue the donation plea as the hunting farce stunned him.

Hopefully, you'll address this concern.

Eunice Pierce
San Luis Obispo

Interviewed by Farber, Richard Strohmman, an emeritus professor of biology at UC Berkeley, said "Before the biotech boom, we never had this incessant urging to produce something useful, meaning profitable. Everybody is caught up in it. Grants, millions of dollars flowing into laboratories, careers and stars being made. The only way to be a successful scientist today is to follow consensus... You've got the next quarter to report, and you don't want any bad news. It's all about the short term now. Science has totally capitulated to corporate interests."

The report to the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission by the GMO Task Force on the potential health risks of genetically engineered foods is a portrait of that capitulation.

ors Climate Protection Agreement, these will never be more than random actions with non-measurable effects.

"Mayor O'Malley needs to get a sense of the responsibility he has taken on," said Life on Planet Earth's Eric Greening. "He needs to know that signing didn't make us go away, and that we are here to help him do what he says he wants to do: prove he can not only meet but exceed the expectation of the Cool Cities program. The informed and civil persistence of these students has gotten us to the beginning of the next leg on the journey."



Student power: Jono Kinkade (left) with fellow Cuesta Grassroots stalwarts Tim Russell, Cooper Schumann, Wendy Reil, Sierra Rose Prizbyla and friend.

Plovers

continued from page 9

Draft Recovery Plan, which was based on the assumption that the critical habitat as designated in 1999 would remain protected and not be subject to adverse modification. In 2005, critical habitat for the Pacific plover was reduced from 18,000 to 12,145 acres.

The loss of critical habitat means that developers need not apply for Section 10 permits, which require that the Secretary of the Interior must find that the incidental taking of plover by the proposed development will not reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery. Housing developments in coastal areas, commercial recreational and visiting-serving facilities, as well as publicly sponsored developments (boat docks, piers, beach concessions, shore-line protection improvements, cliff stabilizations) would not need Section 10 permits under the proposed rule, even though they may result in "takings" of plovers or destruction of critical habitat.



Peter Knapp

The proposed rule will not encourage voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners. Private landowners enter into voluntary management agreements with local governmental agencies to protect endangered or threatened species because this may avoid the necessity for a Section 10 permit.

That counties may obtain an exemption if they show they have met management goals for at least two of the five years prior to the application — submitted without provision for public comment — means that a county could fail to sustain breeding goals for 3 years prior and still satisfy the criteria. This criterion lacks a sound biological foundation.

The Service is proposing to divest itself of its remaining protective regulatory authority re critical habitat and Section 10 permits.

We urge the Service not to finalize the proposed Section 4(d) rule, and to leave the existing regulatory protections of the ESA in place. If in the future a final rule is deemed necessary and appropriate by the Secretary, it should be based on a Final Recovery Plan that takes into account the current status of the plover, especially the existing regulatory protections for the plover arising out of the changes in critical habitat designations.

TAKE ACTION

Send comments on the proposed special 4(d) rule for the threatened Pacific Coast distinct population segment of the western snowy plover by August 21, 2006, to:

Field Supervisor
Arcata Fish and Wildlife Service
Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1655 Heinden Road
Arcata, CA 95521
fax: 707-822-8411

Read: Has Your Mayor Signed the Climate Agreement? at www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

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Classifieds

September issue ad deadline is **August 10**. To acquire a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:

Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
 p.o. Box 15755
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
 sierra8@charter.net

Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567
 Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219
 SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
 SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

highlights from recent Chapter meetings

Conservation Committee, June 6, 2006

In attendance: Holly Slettland, Jan Marx, Jono Kincade (part.), Mandy Davis
 Guests: Karen Merriam, Neil Havlik, Gail McPherson, Jessica Daem
 Staff: Andrew Christie

Meeting called to order at 5:25. Minutes of 5/2 meeting approved.

SLO City Manager Neal Havlik presented a request for the Chapter to assist financially in the purchase of a conservation easement over Brughelli Ranch, 400 acres adjacent to SLO Airport. Easement value appraised at \$975k, owners asking \$750k. City wants chapter's assistance in raising \$200k. Members requested more details as available.

Havlik confirmed that students "geocaching" on Bishops Peak and other natural areas are not exempt from "stay on the trails" requirement.

Gail McPherson presented an outline for Talk About the Bay (TAB) conference. Members requested final program, budget, venue and date.

Mandy Davis will organize attendance at August DFG Santa Barbara meeting on waterfowl hunt regulations per Morro Bay hunt. Members directed request that Angeles Chapter be informed to get them involved in the issue.

Jono will present Cool Cities certificate to Atascadero Mayor O'Malley on, tell students to get ready for effort in Paso. Holly will work with Mayor Mecham on getting sign-on to Climate Agreement.

Jan requested permission to re-form Chapter Dalidio Task Force to oppose the current project. Andrew will check mailing list procedure.

All other matters tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00.

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Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

Hiking Classifications:

Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

July 2, 9:30 a.m., Point Sal Hike: Meet at west end of Brown Rd. at locked gate. We'll hike up road to ridge, 2.5 miles, 1000 ft elevation change then decide to 1.continue to beach, 2.hike down ridge, 3. turn around. Many stops on the way, at 80 I promise to go slow. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net.

Wed., July 5, 12, 19, 26, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. 2 -3 hour hikes around the San Luis Obispo Area. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather. E-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat., July 8, 5:00 p.m. CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY DINNER PICNIC: This is an evening paddle on the bay and a beach dinner picnic with friends. It should be a romantic evening for a gourmet picnic. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothing, flashlight and a picnic dinner. LOW TIDE 2:13 p.m. 2.6' HIGH TIDE 8:43 p.m. 5.6' Put in 5:00 p.m. LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA. Details call Joe Dickerson 693-9534

July 9th. 9:30 a.m., BLACK LAKE CANYON: Meet at junction of Leguna Negra and Guad. Rd (south end of Zenon) , Hike into oak woodland, euke problem, see erosion from Greenhart and their new answer to the excess water problem. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

Sat., July 15, 9:00 a.m. Cerro Alto Hike: Join the leader on a 7.1 mile hike at Cerro Alto. There will be approximately 1700 ft of gain. We will be doing the long loop, by taking the trail from the campground to the summit and by going through the eucalyptus grove to the Boy Scout Trail on the return. Views of the coastline and the Morros from the summit are incredible. Bring water, lunch, appropriate hiking shoes and dress for the weather. There is a possibility of poison oak. Meet at the

Cerro Alto campground off Highway 41. For info, call Chuck @ 441-7597. There is a \$5 fee per car for parking, unless you have an adventure pass.

July 16th, 0930, Sun., TOUR de NIPOMO Bicycle ride stopping at Park, Native Garden, Creekside Preserve, Dana Adobe, High School. Meet at Nipomo Library. Less than 10 miles with many stops. Kids OK Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

July 2006 CANOE/KAYAK TO A MOZART CONCERT: The date and time of this concert will not be announced by the Mozart Festival Committee until June 18th. Please check our Sierra Club web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for complete details after June 18th. This leisurely paddle leads to the Baywood Pier but this time we anchor off the pier, or run our bows up on the beach, to eat lunch while we listen to a Brass Ensemble play Mozart. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothing and a picnic lunch.

HIGH TIDE ? LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA
LOW TIDE ? Put in ? Check website for details.

JULY 23. 0930, Sun, KAYAK OSO FLACO Meet at lake with kayak and pfd. I have an extra kayak but you have to transport. Bring bins & bird book. Confirm at a few days before 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net July 21 or 22

Sat., July 29th, 9 a.m. Valencia Peak Hike. Come take a 5 mile hike with 1300 foot elevation gain to the top of Valencia peak returning via the Oats Peak Trail. Meet at the Valencia Peak Trailhead. Bring water and a snack. Possible eats after for those interested. Details call Gary at 473-3694 (2C)

Wed., August. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 5:30 p.m. Informal Hikes. 2 -3 hour hikes around the San Luis Obispo Area. Bring water, snack, and dress for the weather. E-mail gfelsman@onemain.com for meeting location.

Sat-Sun, Aug 5-6 - Bristlecone Pines & Barcroft Lab: Come with us to the beautiful White Mtns to hike the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on Sat, followed by happy hour, a potluck feast and campfire. On Sun, the only day of the year it is open to the public, we'll tour the University of California's Barcroft Lab at 12,500', followed by an easy hike to Mr. Barcroft (13,040'). Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, 1550 N. Verdugo Rd. #40, Glendale, CA 91208; (818-242-7053). Co-Ldr: Bill Spreng, (760-951-4520). CNRCC Desert Com/Mojave Group

August 6th, 0930, Thurs., NIPOMO CREEKSIDE PRESERVE: Meet at this new park behind Adobe Plaza which is a product of the Land Conservancy. It consists of about 200 native plants, stream restoration and riparian biome. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

August 13th. 9:30 a.m., BLACK LAKE CANYON: Meet at junction of Leguna Negra and Guad. Rd (south end of Zenon) , Hike into oak woodland, euke problem, see erosion from Greenhart and their new answer to the excess water problem. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

August 20th, 9:30 a.m., Point Sal Hike: Meet at west end of Brown Rd. at locked gate. We'll hike up road to ridge, 2.5 miles, 1000 ft elevation change then decide to 1.continue to beach, 2.hike down ridge, 3. turn around. Many stops on the way, at 80 I promise to go slow. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647, bdenneen@kcbx.net

Sat., Aug. 26, 9:00 a.m. Islay Road-Barranca Trail-Ridge Trail: Hike in Montana de Oro: Join the leader on this 7 mile loop hike in beautiful Montana de Oro State Park There is about 1500 ft of elevation gain. Summer is a great time to hike on the coast and views of the coastline from Hazard Peak are spectacular. Bring water, snacks or lunch, appropriate hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. There is a possibility of poison oak. Meet at the Islay Road entrance or park at the Ridge Trail parking area (end of hike) and walk down about 100 yards to Islay Rd. where we will start the hike. There is no entrance fee to the park. There will be a refueling stop after the hike for those who are interested. For info, call Chuck @ 441-7597

Saturday August 26, 10:00 a.m. CANOE/KAYAK BAYWOOD FOR LUNCH: This leisurely paddle

Channel Islands Cruises

July 21-24: 4-day, 4-islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa Islands (\$750)

August 25-29 & September 14-18: 5-day, 5-islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Island (\$875)

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Participants are invited to board the boat the night before to ensure an early morning departure. Prices include assigned bunks, meals and snacks, and a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and help us identify whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, and numerous species of bird and plant life. An archeologist will travel with us to help identify artifacts left by the native Chumash who inhabited these islands for thousands of years.

Each island is unique and offers its own special charm. **San Miguel** for its white, sandy beaches & huge congregation of elephant seals; **Santa Rosa** for its rare Torrey Pine forest; **Santa Cruz** for high mountains, deep valleys & the famous Painted Cave, **Anacapa** for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse and excellent snorkeling waters. **Santa Barbara Island** for pristine waters and a friendly



Photo by Joaquin Palting

leads you to the Baywood Pier where you can enjoy an inexpensive lunch in Baywood or bring a picnic lunch and eat on the pier. Our paddle back to the marina always burns up a few of the calories. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, binoculars and lunch money or picnic lunch. HIGH TIDE 12:25 p.m. 4.8' LOW TIDE 6:17 p.m. 1.6' Put in 10:00 a.m. LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA Joe Dickerson 693-9534.

August 27th, 0930, Sun, KAYAK OSO FLACO Meet at lake with kayak and pfd. I have an extra kayak but you have to transport. Bring bins & bird book. Confirm at a few days before 929-3647 or bdenneen@kcbx.net August 24 or 25.

Sun., Sep. 3rd, 9 a.m., Coast Hike: For details call 929-3647 or e-mail BDenneen@KCBX.net just before.

colony of frolicking sea lions. All islands have rugged shorelines, dotted with sea caves, & inhabited by an abundance of wildlife. Activities include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, beachcombing, or just relaxing at sea. In summer, warmer, pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice snorkelers and swimmers.

Proceeds benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. To make a reservation, sent \$100 check



payable to Sierra Club to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, 91732. Information: 626-443-0706 or jholtzhl@aol.com

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.